



JOHN ENGLER, Governor  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

*"Better Service for a Better Environment"*  
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REPLY TO:

LABORATORY SECTION  
DRINKING WATER & RADIOLOGICAL  
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February 6, 2001

TO: Laboratory Directors  
Laboratory Data Coordinators  
District Supervisors

FROM: George L. Krisztian, Laboratory Certification Officer

SUBJECT: Developments in the Lab Certification Program

It's time again for another update regarding the Drinking Water Certification Program. This update will cover the following issues:

- Proficiency Test Scheduling
- Lead-Time for the Recertification of Laboratories
- Internet Resources
- Update to the Laboratory Certification Manual

**PROFICIENCY TEST SCHEDULING:**

Laboratories will need to order their PT samples during the first half of February. This will allow enough lead-time for this office to receive the results by the April 30, 2001, deadline.

For your convenience, here again is a list of the approved PT Providers.

**CO**

[Environmental Resource Associates \(ERA\)](#), Arvada, CO [200386- 0]

Phone: (303) 431-8454

**CT**

[Absolute Standards, Inc.](#), Hamden, CT [200390- 0]

Phone: (203) 281-2917

[AccuStandard, Inc.](#), New Haven, CT [200389- 0]

Phone: (203) 786-5290 X102

## LA

[Chrisope Technologies, A Division of Remel](#), Lake Charles, LA [200388- 0]

Phone: (318) 479-1000 X236

## NJ

[Protocol Analytical Supplies, Inc.](#), Middlesex, NJ [200395- 0]

Phone: (732) 627-0500

[Spex Certiprep Inc.](#), Metuchen, NJ [200392- 0]

Phone: (732) 549-7144 X418

## NY

[NYS DOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program](#), Albany, NY [200387- 0]

Phone: (518) 485-5570

## OH

[Analytical Products Group, Inc.](#), Belpre, OH [200384- 0]

Phone: (740) 423-4200

## RI

[Ultra Scientific, Inc.](#), North Kingston, RI [200379- 0]

Phone: (401) 294-9400

More information about these vendors can be obtained at the following website:

<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/214.htm>

## **LEAD-TIME FOR THE RECERTIFICATION OF LABORATORIES:**

There have been a number of laboratories calling this office expressing concern that they have not accounted for their recertification fee in the fiscal year that their fee is due. In order to recertify laboratories prior to their respective expiration dates, it is necessary to send out applications seven months in advance. There are a number of time-sensitive steps involved with the recertification process.

- 1.) The lab receives the application and has 30 days to return the required materials.
- 2.) This office reviews the materials and sends completed packages, within 14 days, to the appropriate auditing body. (Although a portion of the audits are done by the state, the majority of the audits are conducted by NSF International.)
- 3.) The auditing body has 90 days to schedule the audit.
- 4.) The auditing body has 30 days to submit an inspection report to the laboratory.
- 5.) The laboratory then has 30 days to respond to the audit report.
- 6.) A decision regarding certification is made within 14 days of the laboratory's response to the inspection report.

This demonstrates that a lead-time of seven months is necessary if each party uses the maximum allotted time for each step. This is a permanent change to the program so please make sure you account for your recertification fee in the proper fiscal year.

Failure to comply with these deadlines may result in the lapsing of certification of the laboratory. Administrative extensions may be granted to laboratories when the state or the auditing body has failed to meet their respective deadlines, but not when the laboratory has failed to do so.

### **INTERNET RESOURCES:**

We are proud to announce that the web site for the Laboratory Certification Program is up and operational. The address is [www.deq.state.mi.us/dwr](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/dwr)

So far we have posted the following information:

- Memos to the Certified Labs
- The Manual for the Certification of Laboratories (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- Lists of Certified Labs

Other information that will be posted soon:

- 40 CFR part 141 (July 1, 2000)
- January 22, 2001 Federal Register (Revised Arsenic Rule)
- Excel spread sheet for Control Charting
- Excel spread sheet for calculating MDLs

We hope to continually update and improve the information on this site. Please contact us with any ideas that you may have for inclusion on the web site.

### **UPDATE TO THE LABORATORY CERTIFICATION MANUAL:**

This office has received notification that the Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water is undergoing revision. EPA hopes to release the document sometime during the course of 2001. This will be posted to the web site as soon as it is available and notification will be made to the laboratories. We also hope to include a brief synopsis of significant changes.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact me at 517-335-8812.